

## INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

25X1

This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

S-E-C-R-E-T

COUNTRY	USSR	REPORT	
SUBJECT	The Foreign Section of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union	DATE DISTR.	30 June 1955
DATE OF INFO.		NO. OF PAGES	2
		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
		REFERENCES	
		This is UNEVALUATED Information	

25X1

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. Prior to Stalin's death, the organizational structure of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union contained an element called the Section for Liaison with Foreign Communist Parties (Otdel Svyazi c Inostrannymi Kommunisticheskimi Partiyami), also more simply referred to as the Foreign Section (Inostrannyi Otdel). This otdel was divided into two sektors: one for liaison with the East European satellite countries and China, and the other for liaison with the Communist Parties of capitalist countries. It is believed to have been located in the Central Committee building. (It should not be confused with the "Commission for Travel Abroad", which had no clandestine functions and since 1949 or 1950 has been located on Bolshoy Komsomolskiy Pereulok, house number 3 or 7.) The status of the Foreign Section may have been affected by the events following Stalin's death, notably the changes made in the Central Committee.
2. The Foreign Section was a vital part of the Central Committee's machinery, especially since it was the only channel for liaison with the foreign Communist parties. Its importance is emphasized by the fact that it was directed by Mikhail A. Suslov, Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU. The Cominform reportedly fell under the jurisdiction of the Foreign Section, as did the editorial staff of the newspaper For a Lasting Peace, For a People's Democracy, which is printed in Bucharest.
3. Although the existence of this section was not advertised, it was not regarded as highly secret. Significant is the fact that the section's title stressed "liaison" (svyaz) rather than "direction" (rukovodstvo). The short title "Foreign Section" was officially discouraged in favor of the full designation, so as to avoid any unpleasant connotations.

S-E-C-R-E-T

STATE	V	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC								
-------	---	---	------	---	------	---	-----	---	-----	--	-----	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

S-E-C-R-E-T

25X1

-2-

4. The head of the Foreign Section, Suslov, not only guided its general policy, but also directed its daily activities. He devoted himself almost entirely to liaison with Communist Parties abroad, and had practically nothing to do with domestic affairs in the USSR. All Cominform meetings, irrespective of location, were conducted by Suslov. While such meetings were always held in satellite countries, they were attended by representatives of Communist Parties from the non-orbit areas.
5. Presumably, the Foreign Section actually directed, supported, and controlled the world-wide Communist movement. Of late, all international affairs in general, and Communist Party matters in particular, were regarded as highly important by the Soviets; and the Tito split, as well as the dissension within the French Communist Party and anti-Soviet activities of such men as Rajk and Slansky, indicated a necessity for closer supervision of and greater assistance to the Communist Parties abroad. A consequence of this concern has been the selection of CC/CPSU members for ambassadorships in satellite countries as, for instance, the recent appointment of Georgiy M. Popov, former secretary of the Central Committee and secretary of the Moscow Party Committee, as Ambassador to Poland.<sup>2</sup>
6. It is possible, although by no means probable, that Panyushkin, former Soviet Ambassador to the United States, was Suslov's deputy in charge of the Foreign Section. Before he was sent to America, Panyushkin was attached to the Council of Ministers as Secretary General of the KI. His assignment to the United States probably resulted from his long association and friendship with Molotov, rather than from any affiliation with the Foreign Section.
7. Quite possibly, the Central Committees of Communist parties in satellite states had their own Foreign Sections, paralleling their parent organization in the USSR. It is unlikely, however, that there would have been a direct section-to-section contact between Moscow and the satellite parties, since liaison of that sort would have been conducted on a higher level, probably through the secretaries. The Foreign Section in Moscow would normally have used the MVD as a channel for dealing with its satellite counterparts. If it wanted to utilize the facilities of satellite intelligence services, it would have channeled its request through the Second Chief Directorate, MVD, which would have been obliged to act on it without revealing its origin. Outside the Soviet orbit it is more likely that the Foreign Section of one Communist Party would have been contacted through another Communist Party which, in Moscow's view, was reliable enough to be entrusted with such missions. The MVD resident in non-orbit countries had probably nothing to do with this activity.
8. The Foreign Section also directed and controlled Communist front organizations abroad, including the World Peace Council, VOKS, the International Student Organization, the Anti-Fascist Soviet Youth Committee, the Anti-Fascist Soviet Women's Committee, and others. Written directives were unnecessary, since leading individuals in front organizations invariably were Soviets and Soviet Communist Party members and thus subject to oral instruction by their Central Committee. Front organizations thus always followed the policies laid down in Moscow.

1.  Comment:   
 It is probable that Foreign Section, as given in the present report, is the correct title rather than Foreign Directorate,
2.  Comment: Popov was replaced in March 1954 by Nikolay Aleksandrovich Mikhaylov, secretary of the Moscow Party Committee.

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

S-E-C-R-E-T